



The Spirit of Elijah

One Step - One Heart at a Time

Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2010 (Stake Conference)

PV Stake Temple Goal: A Heavenly Shadow Mountain Ward

That Every Adult Member Hold a Current Temple Recommend

Personal Goals

- *Improve My Temple Attendance*
- *Take Someone with Me*
- *Record Impressions Before and After*

Mesa Arizona Temple 2010 Schedule

480.833.1211, 101 S. LeSueur,
Mesa, 85204
www.lds.org (temples)

Endowment Sessions
Tues.-Fri. 5:30am, 6:00 am &
every 30 minutes from
7:00am—7:30 pm

Special Sessions: ASL 3rd Sat.
11:30am, **Spanish:** Every Sat
6am, 8:30am & 1st & 3rd
Thurs. 7:30pm
Tongan: 2nd Tues. 7:30pm

Closures
Mon., Mar. 22—Mon., Apr. 5,
Mon., Sept. 27—Mon., Oct 11,
Jan. 1, July 3, Sept. 25 (after
1:30), Nov. 24 (after 10am),
Nov. 25, Dec. 24, Dec 31 (after
10am), Jan 1, 2011

"It all started in a ward council meeting in August last year," said a beaming Bishop Scott Johnson. The ward council of the Shadow Mountain Ward desired to support the Stake Presidency's emphasis on the temple. The council set a goal to use the *New Family Search* program to find, submit, and do temple ordinances for a virtual new ward in the spirit world. About 180 people attend sacrament meetings, which meant the goal was 180 endowments by December 31, 2009!

With the support of project leaders Jeannette Fish, Robin Vice, and

Matt Del Bianco, the ward came together. It took a few weeks before the ball was rolling, but by mid-October people had gotten the spirit of the work. Many were using the *New Family Search* with remarkable success. One family found 89 names. Another found 200 (and still counting). Soon many names were identified and prepared for temple ordinances.

Then, they moved into the next phase. The names were given to the many ward temple patrons. Temple trips were increased including a Primary activity and YM/YW baptisms. Some

weeks, patrons could choose from four planned temple excursions. Spiritual insights were received. Feelings of connection with loved ones were established or enhanced. New recommends were issued, old ones renewed. The spirit of Elijah rested on the Shadow Mountain Ward. By year end, the ward had performed ordinances (through endowments) for 188 souls, replicating itself in the spirit world. A joyous Christmas gift was given to each other and to many whose eternal progression is now available. The 2010 goal is 360 endowments...two more heavenly wards.

Why a Stake Temple Journal?

From President Wayne Lewis

Ten months ago when Elder Pace set me apart he placed his hands upon my head and said, "I bless you with vision to lead the stake." Just as he promised, within two weeks vision and revelation came with clar-

ity. We were to focus on taking our members to the temple and helping with temple work. I marveled at the wisdom of this and the blessings that would come to every member and family of our stake. The influence

would touch extended families and friends as well.

Over the next few months, and after extensive discussions with my counselors and the High

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Published Bi-Monthly -
1st Sunday of even months by the
Stake Melchizedek Priesthood Committee.
Bob & Marilyn Llewellyn, editors
E-mail: pvtemplejournal@cox.net

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The Gila Valley Temple Open House & Dedication

Public Open House: Fri., Apr. 23-Sat., May 15
(except for Sundays)
Cultural Celebration: Sat., May 22
Dedication: Sun., May 23 (9:00am,
12:00 noon & 3:00)

To enable the saints to participate in the temple dedication and to place appropriate focus on this sacred event, the 3-hour block meetings will be cancelled on May 23rd. The dedication will be broadcast to all church units in Arizona and the Silver City New Mexico Stake. (More information for our stake in the next edition.) The temple opens for ordinances on Monday, May 24th.

Tots & Temples

A The _____ (Canada) Temple was dedicated in 1923 by Heber J. Grant.

B _____ for the dead were performed in Christ's early church; today they are performed in latter-day temples.

C There are seven temples in _____, a large west-coast state in the United States.

D The first temple in Colorado was built near _____, nicknamed the Mile-High City.

E A blessing of special spiritual gifts, which include instruction and a series of covenants made with Heavenly Father in the temple, is known as the temple _____.

F When it was dedicated in 1985, the _____ Germany Temple was in the German Democratic Republic.

[Continued next issue. From Marianne Bates, *Friend* Sept '93.]

Stand Ye in Holy Places

The Paradise Valley Stake was blessed to hear from Mesa Temple President Daryl Garn and Matron Irene Garn at a special temple fireside on February 14, 2010 at the stake center, entitled *Stand Ye in Holy Places*.

Sister Garn related how she had kept a small "journal" for her temple work since 1968, with names, birth dates, locations, and the date of temple work.

She reminded the stake that the temple is for three purposes: 1) to do our own ordinances, 2) to do ordinances for those in the spirit world, and 3) to experience regularly the

beauty, peace, revelation and sanctity of the temple. She added, "The Lord is always home."

President Garn inspired us with comments from D&C Section 109 and Alma 11 and a report of progress of the church in Asia, his most recent assignment.

He told us some people may feel unworthy to go to the temple. To them he said, "Get a second opinion!" Bishops can help everyone receive a temple recommend, the "passport"



to temple blessings. He encouraged all to prove the Lord herewith, receive the blessings of the temple and enter into "the blessed and happy state of those who keep the commandments." This is his favorite scripture, Mosiah 2:41, the key to "never ending happiness."

Why a Stake Temple Journal?

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Council, I was assured that this was the Lord's will. Just four days prior to last stake conference I was still uneasy, not knowing how to best present the message of returning to the temple. Late in the afternoon as I worked on preparing my thoughts and was struggling to further understand the Lord's will, I plead for help from above. In the middle of that prayer, before it had even ended, inspiration began to flow. As I recorded those impressions,

the peace of the Spirit brought clarity and direction, simplicity and power, in defining our stake goals. [See *Goals*, page 1, column 1.]

After stake conference, stake leaders were excited about the wonderful work each ward was doing to emphasize the temple. Nonetheless, we began to ponder what more the stake should be doing to encourage our members. After some deliberation and prayer, an idea evolved. We felt a stake temple journal would provide a way to share successes,

record our history, support each other, maintain momentum, and set an example of temple journal keeping (encouraging individuals to record impressions before and after).

I testify that this is the Lord's will and all who participate will draw down the powers of heaven and bring eternal blessings to themselves, their families, and those they assist. We can do this my brothers and sisters, we can! *One Step - One Heart at a Time.*